## REMARKS

In the December 4, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected:

1. Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 16 and 17 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Chan (U.S. Patent No. 6,332,004);

2. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Timm (U.S. Patent No. 6,055,268) in view of Lau (U.S. Patent No. 5,896,417);

3. Claims 10, 14, and 15 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Booth (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,073) in view of Lau; and

4. Claims 11 and 12 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Booth and Lau and further in view of Timm.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-17 without prejudice and added new claims 18-28. No new matter is presented as the claims find support in the specification in at least Figure 4. Applicants respectfully submit that new pending claims 18-28 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner also objected to several typographical errors in 4, 5, 9 and 13. The Examiner's objections are now moot in view of the cancellation of those claims.

**New Claims 18-28**

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 18-28 are not anticipated by Chan. Chan teaches a multi-pair communication system with transceiver blocks 2, 3 coupled together with four twisted-pair cables 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d. *See* Chan, Figure 1. Each transceiver block 2, 3 has four transmitter/receiver circuits 6 connected with a Physical Coding Sublayer block 8. Each transceiver block 2, 3 also has analogue filters 9 and Class A/Class B circuitry 10 as well as an adapted transmission signal cancellation circuit 5. *Id.* Chan also shows a transceiver block 2, 3 in more detail, i.e. a transmitting section 30 and a receiving section 32. The configurable Class A/Class B circuitry 10 allows for selective low-power and/or high-speed operation (see also column 6, lines 5 to 55 of this document).

Chan does not teach a data splitter or a data collection and reorganization unit as claimed in claim 18. Chan discloses transceiver blocks that contain transmitting and receiving sections that connect directly to twisted pair cables for communication to corresponding transceiver blocks. Chan therefore provides hardwired and direct data

transmission and receiving connection obviating any need for data splitting or data collection and reorganization.

In addition, Chan shows the transceiver block in figure 1 coupled to four twisted-pair cables 4a to 4d (see also column 6, lines 17 to 32 of this document). The four twisted-pair cables clearly teach away from the 100BaseS modem of new claim 18, which recites that the number of ports is variable: between one to four ports, i.e. the modem according to the present invention is configurable to a variable number of DSL ports.

In addition, new claim 19 recites a flow and rate control memory (*see* page 15, lines 21 to 27 of the application). New claim 20 recites a configuration of the sense units to sense the number of DSL ports provided for the 100BaseS port (*see* also page 16, lines 16 to 22 of the application). Chan does not teach or disclose or suggest a flow and rate control memory or a configuration auto sense unit as claimed by new claims 19 and 20.

Chan also does not disclose an MII interface and a controller for configuration as recited by new claims 21 and 22.

## CONCLUSION

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that all pending claims 18-28 are in condition for allowance and request that the rejections to those claims be withdrawn. If any questions or issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Enrique Perez, at his direct dial number (312) 913-2104.

Respectfully submitted,

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